

Homosexuality

It is so important in life to know what you believe and why you believe it. And to always love and respect those who have different convictions from yours.

TS And that leads me to my first point:

- 1. We are to love all human beings regardless of their ethnicity, beliefs, or lifestyle.**

As a Christian, I believe all people are created in the image of God:

Gen 1:27-28

27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Jesus is our model here: He loved all people and showed care and compassion for all people. He looked into their heart and saw way beyond their outward behavior. He sought to reach the need and the pain behind the sinful practices of all people.

Loving and accepting people where they are does not mean that we believe their conduct is acceptable. I believe that Jesus is our example for loving and accepting people where they are at, even though their conduct may be unacceptable. More on that later.

- 2. Just because one has attractions or some sexual experience with someone of the same gender, this does not mean that person is gay.**

Just because you might have some attractions to the same sex or even may have experimented with some same sex behavior does not mean you are gay. In growing up we all go through various hormonal changes and development (and many of you are right at the peak of those changes) and our bodies are doing weird things, so don't be misled into thinking this means you are gay.

The important thing is to discover what is right and healthy and then to do that, regardless of how you feel. If we all acted on our feelings we would be in big trouble most of the time. Becoming a mature and responsible person means that you learn what is right and do what is right, no matter what, and then you will find that you will benefit from doing the right thing.

- 3. The following are the reasons I believe homosexuality is neither acceptable nor a healthy practice.**
 - a. Physically**

Our bodies are not made for this type of sexual activity and that should show us something. I see this as a “natural law” issue. God designed male and female bodies to function in a certain way, and he did not make a mistake in this design. God did not make a mistake when He made us.

It is dangerous to rupture the anal cavity. There are a lot of medial and disease issues here (quote from my brother’s letter on this)

Quote p. 14 of Straight Answers about the immune system due to anal intercourse

TS Closely related but taking it a little deeper is my 2nd reason:

b. Medically

Quote by Dr. Bill Floyd

Homosexuals are at a much higher risks of getting STDs and especially AIDS. No, AIDS is not a gay disease per se but a homosexual is at a much greater risk of getting AIDS and this is just a fact.

Homosexuals admit that they go by a different moral code and thus multiple partners are much more common and this puts anyone who engages in sex with a homosexual at a much greater risk of getting an STD. Please know that when you have sex with someone you in essence have sex with everyone that person has had sex with and that person has had sex with and on and on.

Quote from USA Today regarding multiple partners

Quote p. 11 about syphilis and Andrew Sullivan’s statement about the different moral standards of homosexuals,

Quote p. 12 about homosexuals being a higher risk of AIDS

And don’t be deceived: no condom is 100% effective. The only thing that is 100% guaranteed: if you remain a virgin and marry a virgin (of the opposite gender) and you both have sex with just each other (no matter how often you have sex), you will not get an STD in any kind of a way that is obtained through sexual contact. Of course there are other non sexual ways to get some STDs but you will not get it sexually if you only have sex with your spouse and you both have only been with each other. Doesn’t that speak volumes!

Quote from “Does homosexual activity shorten life?”

Let me share with you one more fact that should say a lot to you:

Quo Red Cross and who can give blood – this alone should tell you that medically it is not a good thing to engage in homosexual relations

c. Sociologically/Historically

There is no known culture in the world that as a culture has condoned homosexuality. The only exception to this might be the ancient Roman Empire, which actually crumbled

due to a number of immoral behaviors that they accepted. The Roman civilization fell not from the outside but rather from the inside.

Quote from my brother's letter

d. **Emotionally**

Quote from study done and reported in the San Francisco Bureau

Here is where we need to have great compassion. I will mention this a little more later but most homosexuals come from very painful backgrounds where they have not receive proper love from the parent or another adult of the same gender. Therefore, there was created in early life a certain void in which they are seeking to fill by becoming emotionally and physically intimate with someone now of the same gender.

We need to have compassion for the pain that exists in the hearts of many homosexuals.

TS The 5th reason I do not believe homosexuality is right is:

e. **Societally**

Here is where I will introduce a topic that I know is very hot in the press today (today's paper?) and that is homosexual marriages. Homosexual marriages should not be approved because homosexual couples do not give children a balanced view of a mom and dad in the home and this is one of the reasons why the discussion and decision about gay marriage is so important.

If we approve of gay marriages then we will have to approve of those couples being able to adopt children and this is not a good environment for their children to be raised in. Furthermore, gay marriage undermines what a family is and thus opens the door for the possibility of all other kinds of "marriages" and "families" to be accepted, such as the possibility of men and boys marrying (as NAMBLA wants), incestuous marriages (what if I am in love with my daughter? Shouldn't we have the "right" to marry? If not, why not? It opens the door for multiple spouses: if "love" and "commitment" is what determines whether we allow someone to marry, then why not allow the marriage of a husband with 2 wives (if they all agreed to it). Where do we draw the line?

TS Finally,

f. **Morally**

Now here is where I will put my pastor hat on and say that as a Christian I believe the bible is the Word of God and does provide an objective standard of right and wrong. I realize some of you may not regard the bible as God's Word, but what is powerful about having the bible is that the bible gives us clear guidance on who God is and how He wants to live. It is the best source for help I have ever found.

And the bible is very clear that any act of sex outside of heterosexual marriage is wrong. Having an attraction toward the same sex is not necessarily sin, but acting on that desire is sin. Here are some of the verses that specifically address homosexuality:

Lev 18:22

"Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable." (NIV)

Lev 20:13

"If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable." (NIV)

Rom 1:26-27

"Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion." (NIV)

1 Cor 6:9-11

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (NIV)

1 Tim 1:7-11

"But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted." (NASB)

Romans 2:14-15

When outsiders who have never heard of God's law follow it more or less by instinct, they confirm its truth by their obedience. They show that God's law is not something alien, imposed on us from without, but woven into the very fabric of our creation. There is something deep within them that echoes God's yes and no, right and wrong. (Message)

Not only do these verses clearly tell us that the practice of homosexuality is sin, but also **church history** would support how the Christian church throughout history has called this a sin. It has just been recently that churches are now choosing to either ignore these verses or try to explain them away but in doing so we are going against the clear teaching of the bible and thousands of years of bible scholars saying that the practice of homosexuality is sin.

It is important to note that when God gives prohibitions ("thou shalt not commit adultery; thou shalt not steal, etc.) it is to **protect** and **provide** for us: to protect us from the pain and harm of the sin and to provide for us something far better than what the sin provides.

Never forget this. God is not some divine kill joy but does give prohibitions to certain things to protect and provide for us.

I want to add this: Because of what Jesus did on the cross, there is no sin that cannot be forgiven and healed....

Ex. Holly?

My ultimate model and example in life is Jesus Christ, who I believe is the Son of God. And Jesus did something very neat which I think is very relevant with a topic like this: He balanced **grace and truth**. **Grace** means we love all people no matter what, we respect all human beings regardless of color or religion or lifestyle because all people are created in the image of God. At the same time, **truth** says there are moral absolutes and right and wrong. Without truth and right and wrong our society would be anarchy. More on this later but by way of introduction, my goal is to have that balance of grace and truth like I see in Jesus. For example, when He was confronted by the leaders of His day concerning a woman who was caught in the very act of adultery, he said, "He who is without sin ... neither do I condemn you, go and sin (called her behavior sin) no more." He loved and accepted her right where she was, saw her pain, forgave her, but also spoke the truth about her behavior.

4. We need an objective standard for what is right and wrong or else all is up for grabs.

What is happening in our culture is that we are trying so hard to be diverse and value neutral and not impose our beliefs on others that we are slowly evolving into a culture in which we have no basis for right and wrong and if we aren't careful all things will be up for grabs and we will have no basis for morals.

For example, why is it wrong to steal? If I am poor and you are rich, why is it wrong for me to take from you to meet my needs? If I "feel like" hitting you, then should I not be able to do this?

I think you can see from this that we do need a standard of right and wrong and some moral restraints, and for me that comes from the bible...

Ultimately there is no such thing as moral neutrality. The issue is: what will we base our morals on?

5. There is hope and healing for those who want help.

Holly share

On your handout are some excellent and balanced resources that help those who are truly interested in finding freedom and peace.

Resources:

1. Focus on the Family: 1-800-A-FAMILY or family.org
2. Exodus North America; 888-264-0877; www.exodusnorthamerica.org

3. Parents and Friends of Ex-gays: www.p-fox.org
4. National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality; www.narth.com
5. Regeneration Books; 410-661-4337
6. Any books by Joe Dallas: Desires in Conflict and A Strong Delusion
7. Love Won Out by John and Anne Paulk
8. You Don't Have to be Gay by Jeff Konrad
9. Coming out of Homosexuality by Bob Davies and Lori Rentzel
10. Homosexuality – The use of scientific research in the church's moral debate by Stanton Jones

One of the most powerful things about Christianity is that Jesus offers forgiveness and healing to those who want it. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and because of this and His resurrection He is able to forgive and heal. Holly is an example of this.

6. It is very important to discover the underlying reasons why a person is sexually attracted to the same gender.

Rather than people being born gay (we will get to that in a minute) there are many contributing factors such as:

- the absence of a same sex parent who gave love and proper affection. This does not cause homosexuality but certainly can contribute to that individual feeling a real void of proper love and then seeking to fill that void with improper relationships with those of the same gender.
- The overly dominate opposite sex parent which cause one to fear or resent that gender

For many men, they had a bad or neutral relationship with their father (and/or had a dominant mother) in which they never properly bonded with a male in early childhood. Therefore, they have this void that they try to fill sexually with someone of the same gender later in life. For women it often stems from a void in her relationship with mom and not being affirmed in her femininity.

For men the sexual component is pretty strong whereas with women the relational/emotional component is more dominant.

- Some form of exposure to pornography or other sexual material that gave one the impression that homosexuality is normal
- Some type of sexual abuse in one's early childhood

Another common scenario is where a young boy has been violated or abused by someone as a child and this can later lead to homosexual activity. He grows up thinking that it is normal that men have sex with men or men have sex with boys.

As for lesbians: **Study** done in 2001 by Anne Paulk (board member of Exodus, speaker and former lesbian) of 265 women (p. 13 of "Roots and Causes"): 69.1% experienced emotional abuse; 55.7% received emotional trauma; 66.4% were victims of sexual abuse. Of those who were sexually abused, almost 80% were molested by males.

Another study done by Dr. Elizabeth Moberly (Cambridge) found 85-90% of lesbians have been victims of sexual abuse.

Quote by Anne Paulk on p. 03 of “Roots and Causes” about the difference in homosexual men and lesbians

7. There is no solid proof that anyone is born a homosexual.

I have the documentation and critique of many of the studies that some claim prove a gay gene, but the studies have numerous flaws. I also have quite a bit of research that shows that there is probably not a gay gene. You will have to study this for yourself if you want and some of the resources I have listed can help you (narth.com).

Therefore, the studies are very inconclusive, but **for me this issue is not that important because the bible teaches that we are all born sinful.** We are born with a natural tendency to do our own thing and not follow God. This is why we need God to give us a new heart, which He will do if we turn from our sin and receive Jesus.

I can say that since I am attracted to women other than my wife that adultery is OK. No way. Even though I may be attracted to another woman, I choose to not act on that desire and obey God by being faithful to my wife.

Other items:

Yes everyone should be treated with love and kindness and respect regardless of one's behavior/sexual orientation, but that does not mean we need to develop some special classification based on this. No one should treat another cruelly, but that does not mean we need special laws where homosexuals are singled out for protection. They are already protected by the current laws. Homosexuals do not need any special “rights” and this issue should not be treated the same as those of ethnicity and gender.

Big Questions:

1. Is it true that 10% of our population is gay?

No; it is more like 2-3%

2. What about those who feel they are born this way?

Usually it is due to a bad experience in early childhood, but regardless, one can choose whether or not to act upon any feeling, so for me it is really a non issue.

3. What about those who say the Bible passages were just true for that culture back then?

There are many passages in which there is no way you can interpret them only culturally. The Old Testament and the New Testament speak strongly against the practice of homosexuality.

4. What about “Christians” who condemn and display hatred toward homosexuals?

This is not acceptable.

5. Can someone who is a homosexual be changed?

Yes and many are.

6. If you believe this is sin, is it worse than any other sin?

No.

7. If you are against homosexuality, does this mean you are homophobic?

No.

8. What about homosexual marriage?

Once again my standard is the bible and the bible defines marriage as the holy union between one man and one woman. And a family is a husband, wife and children. This is clearly stated in Gen. and affirmed by Jesus in the Gospels. To allow homosexual marriages undermines what marriage and the family is. It rewrites the definition of marriage and the family and who is then to forbid multiple partners and the union with a human and an animal or?

Bottom line: You can believe that homosexuality is sin and still love and care for those who are in this lifestyle! Jesus showed love and care for all people, regardless of their lifestyle, but He also spoke the truth in love about certain behavior issues. There is hope for those who are hurting in life!